

# MY HONG KONG

When I first arrived in Hong Kong on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, 2011, the first thing that hit me as a challenge was the weather! It was so hot everywhere and the humidity was almost unbelievable. My fellow exchange-student friends and I were struggling with the heat. We were not able to move outside air-conditioned areas without sweating like a waterfall, while it seemed that all the Hong Kong people could not only take the heat but also look great. In Denmark, we do not get over thirty degrees in the summertime. A normal summer day is around twenty degrees, so it was a very big change and many of us became sick because of the drastic change in the weather.

As for the differences compared to my hometown, the biggest change is without a doubt the massive amount of people around me all the time! I come from a town with around ten thousand inhabitants, so moving to a city with seven million people is very different, but I personally love it! To be young in such a small town as my hometown, Lemvig, is quite boring and in the end you know all the people, so being able to walk on the street without recognizing anyone or being recognized is very different, but in a good way.

One of the things I loved straight away is that everything is available for so long. In my hometown, all the shops close at 5:00p.m. or 6:00p.m. and we have to wait an hour for the next bus to go somewhere, but here in Hong Kong, there is always a new bus coming straight away and you can go shopping until 11:00p.m.

It might seem that it was quite a cultural shock to arrive in Hong Kong, but I find Hong Kong people very open-minded to different cultures and new impressions, which helped me a lot not only in the beginning but also now. That's one of the things I love most about Hong Kong; it's a mix of so many different cultures, religions and traditions.

The difference between the schools in Hong Kong compared to the schools in Denmark or any western countries is very big. I was very nervous about starting school, not only because I was a new girl in school, but also because I was afraid the big difference would make it very difficult for me to fit in. I was very happy though to find all the students and teachers very helpful and friendly to me, helping me and translating for me, which I still appreciate and enjoy a lot. I'm learning a lot from my classmates, both language and about the culture here in Hong Kong which I am very grateful for. They are also very interested in hearing about how things work in Denmark and our culture and school life, which I am glad to be able to share with them. I find my classmates in 4A very kind, open-minded and willing to answer all my questions about why they do so and so.

Some of the most drastic changes were the school uniform and all the rules about the dress code at school. In Denmark, we do not use school uniforms or have any form of dress code at school, but can wear whatever we feel like. Also, the academic level of the different subjects in Hong Kong is very high compared to Denmark, which I am quite impressed by. The Danish students would never be able to graduate at that high level, so I am very impressed by the Hong Kong students. I'm doing my best to keep up, but the study life in Denmark is so different from the study life in Hong Kong, which is a shame! I think Danish students could learn a lot from the mentality about studies here.



I find myself really busy, not only doing schoolwork, although it takes a lot of my time, but getting to know the local people, the culture and the city better. As an exchange student, there are always so many activities to attend and almost every day I have places to go, things to take care of and things to do in order to keep my life in Hong Kong as easy and enjoyable as possible. Therefore, I often come home late at night and am very tired, but in the end I don't really mind. All the activities give me chances to meet and hang out with many people from different countries and cultures, which I enjoy a lot as it gives me opportunities to learn a lot.

I live in Sai Kung with my host family, my host-mom Alice, father Ben and sister Natalie, which is really great! I feel that they are just like my own family in Denmark and they already mean a great deal to me. They have been so welcoming from day one and even though it's almost the opposite of my home in Denmark, I love it here with them and I feel at home. They took me in as a part of their family and I feel very lucky and blessed to stay with them. They let me help cook Chinese food, which I enjoy a lot, and I cook Danish food for them so they can understand why I think some of the things we eat here are very different. Of course, they think Danish food is weird, but it's a very good way to share our cultures with each other. They also teach me Cantonese and in return, I teach them Danish, which is a great deal of fun.

I am really glad to be staying here in Hong Kong and I am sure this year will be the one I will think back on as a memorable one. I am very pleased to be able to share it with so many great people.

2011-12 JC Leung Ka Mei

2011-12 JC Leung Ka Mei



San Tung Chung College 2012

## DISCOVER TODAY'S HONG KONG

Welcome to Hong Kong! It is one of the most famous cosmopolitan cities in the world. Hong Kong is the Pearl of the Orient. Everyone knows about Hong Kong. Are you ready to visit this paradise?

Hong Kong has developed significantly in many aspects. But Hong Kong people have also retained their tradition and heritage.

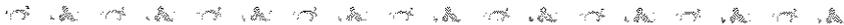
Everyone knows Hong Kong is a food paradise. Hong Kong has many unique dishes. There are a lot of restaurants in the region and you can try the cuisine from different parts of Hong Kong. Don't forget the local seafood is among the best in Asia. The crabs, the prawns and the steamed fish are all delicious. Tourists can try local food like egg tarts, waffles, fishballs and stinky tofu. They are worth trying. Taiwanese, Italian, Korean and American snacks are also found in Hong Kong so don't forget to try them too.

In Hong Kong, you can see its special heritage. A lot of people visit Wong Tai Sin Temple. Every day a lot of tourists go to the temples to worship gods and goddesses. At weekends, families have dim sum at restaurants. You can see a lot of people having dim sum in crowded restaurants and the restaurants are full of laughter.

Hong Kong has different events throughout the year. They are both exciting and fascinating. One of our famous festivals is Duan Wu Festival which commemorates Qu Yuan.

He was a loyal counselor. His king was under the influence of other corrupt officials. After hearing about the capture of his country's capital by General Bai Qi of the state of Qin, Qu Yuan killed himself. The local villagers loved him and didn't want the fish to eat his body so they threw some rice dumplings into the river to feed the fish. Today, people eat dumplings and hold dragon boat races to commemorate this great person. If you have time, go to Shatin and watch the races yourself. People eat mooncakes during the Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese people believe that a girl is living on the moon. Don't you think that is interesting?

How great Hong Kong is! So visit Hong Kong and experience the joy with your family and friends!



2011-12 4C Leung Ka Mei

## ELEVEN ELEVEN CAMPAIGN

Every six seconds, one child dies of hunger in our world. How terrible this is! As this problem has become very serious, Famine 30 was created to save those poor children in the world.

Let me tell you what Famine 30 is. Famine 30 has been held by World Vision for a long time. The aim of the campaign is to save people who do not have enough food. The campaign is held every year and the participants should not eat for 30 hours. There are some activities organized during the event. They include dancing and singing performances and marching band performances. The money raised is used to buy aids. The people affected by famines in East Africa receive these aids. Some participants of the Famine 30 Campaign are shocked by the terrible situation in East Africa.

The money raised is also be used to fund charity projects around the world. In Asia, World Vision helps poor farmers to improve their life. They can use the money to buy cattle, chickens and farming tools. In Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, World Vision provides funds for water projects so these people will have clean drinking water.

In Thailand, a flood hit the capital of Bangkok last summer. World Vision provided food, water and water filters to the people in Thailand.

World Vision also offers help to war victims and people living in poverty. The misallocation of resources made people starve and suffer in the Xichuan earthquake in 2008.

You see how meaningful the Famine 30 Campaign is. Please don't hesitate to offer help and money to the needy. You can be the deliverer of aid. Lets' start now to rescue those who are suffering.



# PROMOTING HONG KONG CULTURE

## Discover Today's Hong Kong

Welcome to Hong Kong. Hong Kong is a big cosmopolitan city. You can find fascinating local culture. Street snacks, heritage and festivals attract thousands of visitors to come to this tiny city in the Orient. Visitors can come to Hong Kong and experience the thrill themselves.

## Special Food in Hong Kong

Although Hong Kong is an international city, you can still find traditional food in local restaurants and streets stalls. In Chinese tea restaurants, you will find 'dim sum'. People's favourites are shrimp dumplings, siu mai and sponge cake. Also, Hong Kong has some famous streets snacks like curry fishballs, waffles and stinky tofu. In Western style tea restaurants, you can find pineapple bread and milk tea. They are all great to eat.

## Heritage of Hong Kong

The residents in Hong Kong go to Wong Tai Sin Temple to worship their god. They pray for good health and good luck for their family too. When some people are sick, they do not go to see a doctor. They simply go to Wong Tai Sin Temple and pray. It is a bit strange, isn't it? But it is the way of life in Hong Kong.

## Festivals in Hong Kong

Chinese New Year is the most important time of the year for local Chinese people. During Chinese New Year, people love to wear red clothes. They stick words of blessing on the doors and walls of their home. There are some special activities to celebrate the festival. On the first day of the festival, there is the Grand Parade in Tsim Sha Tsui. On the second day, there is a fireworks display at Victoria Harbour.

If you want to know more about Hong Kong, why don't you visit the Pearl of the Orient and see for yourself?



# ELEVEN ELEVEN CAMPAIGN

How to help the people in our world?

In Hong Kong, there are many ways to help the poor around the world. One of the ways is to join the Famine 30.

The aim of Famine 30 is to help victims of natural disasters and wars around the world. People are suffering from the side effects of people's commercial activities. In Famine 30, participants experience hunger. It is hoped that participants can have a taste of suffering experienced by the victims.

In my opinion, every Hong Konger should join this event since it is a very meaningful activity. It is because we can help the people in different countries. Famine victims in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are in desperate need of help. It is time we show the world we have a caring heart and are willing to help others in need.

We should do something to save the children in famine stricken countries. Many people in East Africa are facing severe water, food, health and livelihood crises. There has been a series of droughts. If it continues, it will trigger a widespread famine. We must not ignore the suffering of the hungry children. We must offer our help.

We should not give up our commitment to them. So now, please ask your friends and family to donate money for the cause. Even ten dollars can make a huge difference.

Last but not least, I hope that every one of you can help those people. Also they can get a better life. You will feel happy after you have offered your help. So if you are a considerate person, don't hesitate to offer your help. Go ahead and join the Famine 30 Campaign.



# Daya Bay Geography Trip



Sun Yat-sen University

# MANOEUVRES OF NUCLEAR RADIATION

While joining the manoeuvres of nuclear radiation on 26<sup>th</sup> April, I thought it was very inspirational for me because I knew that if there is a nuclear radiation leak at Daya Bay, it will cause a great disaster for Hong Kong citizens. So the Hong Kong government put a lot of resources to plan these manoeuvres in case there is a leakage of nuclear radiation so that they can protect the Tung Ping Chau citizens who are at most risk of exposure to the radiation.

The manoeuvres started at noon. Teachers, classmates, a government department crew and I participated in the manoeuvres of nuclear radiation. We first had a field trip to Tung Ping Chau that morning. After some time, it was said that an accident 'broke out' in the Daya Bay Nuclear Plant. We needed to be evacuated immediately.

Four classmates and I traveled by helicopter. My teacher and other classmates traveled by marine police launch. We ran quickly to the heliport on Tung Ping Chau and waited to travel by helicopter. The atmosphere was very serious. Then we traveled by helicopter, one by one, to Sai Kung Police Station.

Moreover, I had unforgettable experiences while joining the manoeuvres of nuclear radiation. Before the 'accident', we had some time to do a field trip to Tung Ping Chau. I saw a lot of sedimentary rocks at the beach. The sedimentary rocks were formed by weathering. The beautiful views of Kang Lau Shek and wave-cut platform were spectacular. In spite of the long walk along the path, I was very glad because I could extend and reinforce my geographical knowledge by learning about rocks on Tung Ping Chau.

Finally, I was very excited and glad to join the manoeuvres of nuclear radiation emergency, because it was a rare opportunity and experience. I was the one who left Tung Ping Chau by helicopter. This was my first helicopter ride and I was very delighted. I looked down at the ground and saw many tiny buildings and the sea. The view was breathtaking and wonderful. It was the most memorable day in my life.



# WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT HAPPENED IN HONG KONG?

Because of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the Security Bureau has made a contingency plan in case a nuclear accident happens in Daya Bay. Several government departments held a rehearsal of evacuation in case there is a nuclear leak. More than one thousand officers from more than thirty government agencies took part in the drill.

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, four schools participated in the manoeuvres. My school was invited to take part in it. At 7:50a.m., we assembled at the Ma Liu Shui Pier. Soon, we got on a ship. At first, the ship was quite stable. But after half an hour, the wind became strong and the sea was rough and hit our ship! A lot of water splashed onto our boat, and our seats were wet. After an hour, it was about 10:00am. We arrived on Ping Chau.

The weather was quite good and I felt comfortable when I arrived. It was my first visit to Tung Ping Chau and I was shocked to find that there was no light in the toilet. It was very dark there, and I felt very scared. Later, we arrived at the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and attended a briefing session. The government officials gave us a sandwich and a drink.

After our 'lunch', we started our field trip. Because of the time constraint, we just went to see one place. So we chose "The Watch-tower Rock". The ground was quite wet and some of my schoolmates slipped when we were walking on the path. Finally we arrived at our destination, I was very excited because the view was spectacular—there was a huge wave-cut platform. It was hot but the sea breeze was fantastic. It kept us cool. The geographical landscape was extremely stunning.

At noon, the rehearsal started. The helicopter team (twenty students from different schools) started their journey to the police station. We were very quiet and all of the participants were nervous. The road was full of ants; some girls yelled. I was scared too. I took it as if it was a real nuclear accident, and we needed to focus on what we were doing—we were rehearsing and the government needed to count the time and make adjustments. When we stayed at the police station, the police helped us settle down. I felt lucky when I had a chance to talk with the professionals. At about 1:20p.m., the helpers used the radiation monitor to test the radiation on our bodies. Many cameras of journalists flashed at us and all people around looked at us. After fifteen minutes, we arrived at the Hong Kong Marine Police East Division and received another radiation test. If there were any radioactive substances on our bodies, we needed to take a shower. The test was around three to five minutes. At 2:30p.m. the government provided us a coach to send us back to school.

The government officials were efficient and professional. The staff took care of us carefully. This kind of field trip was good for geography students. Students not only can know more about what the government does when a nuclear accident happens, but also know more about the rocks in Hong Kong. Some media later reported that we were eating during the manoeuvres. In fact, eating was part of the rehearsal too!



## MY FEELINGS AFTER THE FIELD TRIP ON TUNG PING CHAU

The field trip on Tung Ping Chau and Daya Bay Contingency Plan was an unforgettable experience.

Firstly, in the field trip, we followed our geography teacher, Miss Lam, to the destination. Despite the short time, we acquired plenty of knowledge about sedimentary rocks. The sedimentary rocks on Ping Chau are the youngest in Hong Kong and they have been eroded by the sea waves. They come in different shapes and sizes. The view is spectacular.

After the field trip, the most important part came—we had to be 'evacuated' according to the Daya Bay Contingency Plan. When the programme started, I was in the first group to leave Ping Chau. I followed the government crew's instructions to go to the police station and wait for the helicopter. In the police station, some specialists gave us a briefing on the contingency plan. When we were being evacuated, it was very difficult to hear the government crew's announcement. I was quite anxious at that time.

The most exciting part was to get on the helicopter and leave Ping Chau. We arrived at the heliport, the staff checked if we had any radiation on our clothes, and we got on the helicopter. In the helicopter, we took a lot of photos in spite of the short time. I was so happy because this was my first time to be on board of a helicopter.

When we arrived at the heliport in Sai Kung, we checked the radiation again. In this field trip, not only have I acquired plenty of knowledge of the sedimentary rocks and Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station, but also have gained some unforgettable memories during the evacuation. This evacuation experience has made me become more aware of the importance of good preparation and planning in any circumstances.



## 'Learning English through Short Stories'

The best way to improve your English is to read English short stories. Do you agree with this statement? There are numerous ways to learn English, but I think the best way is to read English short stories and now I will tell you why this is true.

In my point of view, reading short stories is much easier than reading novels. You will find it is easier to understand the content and a character's emotion in the story. Also, readers can read stories of different genres. For example, readers can choose fables, horror stories, detective stories or fantasy etc. Moreover, reading short stories can help readers improve their reading skills and writing skills. They can also build up their vocabulary bank. As a result, we can learn how to prepare an individual presentation to tell others what the stories are about and our feelings about the stories we read. This is a way to help English learners to build up their confidence in using the language.

I strongly believe that reading English stories is both a learning process and a kind of entertainment. You will not get tired while reading a story that you like. It is an efficient way to learn English grammar, sentence structures and vocabulary. You can also polish your English. You can read a story at anytime you like and anywhere you desire. When you are traveling on the MTR, seize the opportunity to read English stories.

Lastly, reading short stories is great training for your brain. When you read detective stories, you try to figure out the ending of the story. Gradually you will become a proficient reader and user of English.



2011-12-JC Archer Lee

## 'FOREIGN SINGERS ARE MUCH BETTER THAN LOCAL ONES'

I strongly believe that people love foreign singers more than the local ones. My classmates always talk about 'Big Bang', 'Girls' Generation', 'SHINEE', 'Miss A' and 'AKB48'. It is because their appearance and singing skills are better than that of the local ones.

I am absolutely convinced that foreign singers are much better than the local ones. There are two reasons. First, foreign singers are more hardworking than the local ones. From my point of view, foreign singers spend a lot of time practicing dancing and singing. There is a lot of dancing in the Korean music videos. But local singers sing terribly in their music videos. Very few local singers can dance either.

Besides the hard work, foreign groups look great. Their appearance is great and they

# MY EXPERIENCE IN HONG KONG

As I come from a small town in the middle of nowhere, moving to Hong Kong was a big change for me. But even though it's in many ways the complete opposite from my home, I've been able to adapt to the lifestyle in Hong Kong quite quickly. There is always something to do here, and I love how everything is so accessible! In Verdal, my hometown in Norway, we would for example have to wait for an hour for a new train to arrive, while in Hong Kong there's always a new train coming. Also, in Hong Kong, most shops are open until late at night, while back home they often close before eight!

When it comes to my host family here I think I've been very lucky! My host family members are very kind and understanding and they treat me like a real daughter, which makes me feel very much at home. I'm living with two host parents and a nine-year-old host brother close to Ma On Shan. My host brother and I get along very well and usually play together around the house. He's very energetic and playful and he always makes me laugh. As I originally only have a sister, I'm very happy to call him my brother.

I remember being very nervous on the first day of school but it quickly faded away as I got to know my classmates more. They were all very welcoming and I think the students in 5A are very funny and silly, just like me! Although I have to study a lot as I have to keep up with my homework back in Norway too, I still feel happy and relaxed at school as long as I can be with my friends. I have gotten to know so many interesting people and I also hope to know more as time goes by. I think I'm learning a lot from my classmates and friends from school and I also hope they can learn something from me!

Although English is not my native language, I have always been interested in learning to be fluent and I hope that by studying here I can somehow exchange my English abilities with some Cantonese too. By talking with the students, I can learn some Cantonese and they can learn some English or even Norwegian if they like! I am very interested in learning new languages and although I still don't know much, I'm learning new things in Cantonese every day! I also taught my classmates some Norwegian phrases which I think is awesome!

The most challenging thing, as I'm not feeling homesick, has to be the fact that I'm always very busy here. As an exchange student, there is always some activity for me to attend and there hasn't been a day without anything to do. It's not uncommon for me to have an entire day filled with events and I often come home late and very tired. Most of the time it's loads of fun though, as I'm able to hang out with people from many different countries and learn many new things every day.

The exchange program hosting me, AFS Intercultural Programs, has also hosted many fun events for me and the other exchange students and Hong Kong returnees to join. For example, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, they hosted something called the Intercultural Fair where every student would decorate a classroom about their country and show something to different groups of students visiting there. We decorated our room with Norwegian flags, colors and snowflakes and taught them how to dance a traditional folk dance as well as some Norwegian words and phrases. It was loads of fun and I don't think I could participate in anything like this back home!



All in all I must say this has been three amazing months and I can't wait to spend more time here! I feel that Hong Kong is a very exciting and beautiful place and I feel very sad to think that I eventually have to leave. I'm definitely coming back!

2011-12 SE Lau Lie Ling, Ullia

## MAN VERSUS WILD: WHO'S THE WINNER?

Even since the appearance of the first human on the earth, there have been conflicts between mankind and nature. Some people consider mankind "the cancer of the Earth" and blame human actions for the loss of biodiversity worldwide, whereas others disagree with this pessimistic viewpoint. Numerous scientists claim that many animals are endangered yet some new species are found deep in the sea or forest. Have you ever wondered how human actions affect biodiversity in the Earth's ecosystem? In this essay, I am going to examine the inter-relationship between human actions and biodiversity.

On one hand, there are clear arguments in favour of the idea that human actions are responsible for the loss of biodiversity. Most scientists say that human actions, such as commercial hunting, have been directly worsening biodiversity in nature. The mass killing of sharks, elephants or polar bears for the sake of their commercial value has caused significant decline in the number of wild animals. People want shark fins for shark fin soup, elephant teeth for handicrafts and polar bear fur for making clothes. Therefore, it is no wonder that wild animals and marine lives are in jeopardy.

It has also been suggested that human actions in nature like burning fossil fuels, trawling and deforestation contribute to the damage of biodiversity directly. With the burning of fossil fuels, vast amounts of carbon dioxide as well as greenhouse gases have been released into the atmosphere. It not only worsens the situation of global warming, but also turns the global climate to extremes. The brutal fact is that the Earth is deteriorating continuously, but living things cannot adapt to the rapid climate changes. Eventually, vast amounts of special species are found dying. Evidently, a recent piece of news reported that finless porpoises (also known as "river pigs") were found dead because of heavily contaminated waterways in China, as well as the result of global warming.

On the other hand, there are some strong arguments against this statement. Those who disagree insist that biodiversity can be maintained by conservation. The development of renewable energy sources like solar energy or wind power would lower the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and in return, slow down the rate of global warming. Furthermore, laws have been imposed to ban the hunting of endangered species. More evidently, the killing of white and black rhinos has dropped after the banning of the endangered animal trade in China.

Apart from that, one could argue that biodiversity can be increased by scientific methods



such as cloning or genetic modification. Cloning of animals was successful more than a decade ago. It is possible to regenerate species that are extinct. Another argument is the re-creation of prehistoric living things in the near future. Lately, Russian scientists have successfully regenerated a prehistoric plant. Isn't that a miracle? What's more, new or hybrid species may be created with the advancement of genetic engineering. As it is possible to increase biodiversity by modern scientific methods, there is nothing to be worried about.

In a nutshell, there are always two sides to a coin concerning the issue of human influence on biodiversity. As mentioned before, human activities both help and destroy the ecosystem of the earth. Commercial hunting, burning fossil fuels and deforestation are causing the extinction of some species either directly or indirectly, whereas conservation and scientific methods may help prevent the loss of or even create new species.

As the struggle between man and the wild goes on, let's hope that humans can strike a balance in order to attain a win-win situation for both sides.



2011-12 SE Lau Tsz Ying, Emily

## SHOULD HUMAN ACTIVITIES BE BLAMED FOR THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY?

There are always people who claim that human actions are responsible for the loss of biodiversity while others disagree. Statistics show that some animals are endangered. Yet, some new species are found. Do human actions destroy or facilitate biodiversity? In this essay, I am going to examine how human actions affect biodiversity in the Earth's ecosystem.

The word "biodiversity" refers to many different kinds of creatures living together harmoniously in the earth's ecosystem. On the negative side, there are clear arguments in favour of the idea that human actions should be held responsible for the loss of biodiversity.

Scientists say that human actions are directly responsible for the loss of biodiversity. Practices such as commercial hunting and fishing cause serious damage to ecosystems. For instance, people hunt sharks to make shark fin soup; they hunt elephants because they need the teeth for crafts; they kill wolves and tigers because they need their skins to make luxury clothes. Therefore, wild animals and marine life are in jeopardy, if not at the edge of extinction.

It has also been suggested that human actions are indirectly responsible for the loss of biodiversity. Burning fossil fuels and large-scale deforestation release vast amounts of carbon dioxide or greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. It will ultimately result in global warming and dramatic climate changes. However, living things may not be able to promptly adapt to such changes. Finally, it will be a tragedy that they will die out. In fact, it is reported that finless porpoises were found dead because of heavily contaminated waterways in China, as well as the adverse results of global warming.

On the other hand, there are some strong arguments against this statement.





adverse effects on the earth and cause global warming. As a result, the whole earth is getting warmer. Sadly, the truth is that living things may not adapt to the ever-changing climate and eventually become extinct.

However, there are some strong arguments against the above standpoint. Some people say that continual investment in renewable energy can lower the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and thus slow the rate of global warming.

In addition, laws have also been imposed to ban the hunting of endangered species. It is reported that the number of white and black rhinoceros has increased after the banning of rhino trading in China. This measure can gradually restore biodiversity.

Furthermore, it has also been suggested that the number of species can be increased by innovative scientific methods. Regenerating prehistoric living things is one of the latest ideas in bio-technology. A recent report mentioned that Russian scientists have successfully regenerated a kind of prehistoric plant after years of hard work. At the same time, cloning is also an alternative to protect endangered species. The cloning of sheep was successfully carried out in 1996. Later, all kinds of mammals such as cats, dogs, mice, goats, camels and monkeys were cloned. In short, it is not a problem to conserve endangered species by cloning or regenerating extinct species.

On balance, the benefits and the drawbacks of human actions are like the two sides of a coin. As mentioned before, some human actions destroy nature while some preserve it. Commercial hunting and burning fossil fuels are directly and indirectly causing the extinction of some species while conservation and scientific advancement may help prevent the loss of biodiversity or even recreate prehistoric species.

So, should we be responsible for the loss of biodiversity? I think the answer is already in your heart.



2011-12 SE Tse Wing Tung

## INTERNET FRAUD - BEWARE!

Internet crimes have been increasing dramatically in Hong Kong. Increasing cases of Internet crimes, such as cheating and hacking, have been reported according to the Police's press release. However, what can we do to protect ourselves from Internet crimes? In this essay, I am going to discuss what causes the problem, the possible consequences and the possible solutions.

Internet crimes include cheating, identity theft, cyber-bullying, and privacy infringement. These kinds of "virtual crime" will come to reality in some serious cases. For example, some teenage girls were raped when they hung out with Internet friends or some victims have had huge amounts of money stolen from their online bank accounts.

There seems to be a lot of excuses that try and justify the causes of Internet crimes.



One of the typical reasons is that Internet users do not need to bear any responsibility. The Internet is a free platform for people to express their ideas and personal feelings. However, some may abuse this freedom by using humiliating words and revealing other's personal details in online discussion rooms.

Another reason for cyber crimes is that policemen find it difficult to trace the person who committed those crimes. Taking "BT" as an example, the downloaders are also the ones who upload files on the worldwide web. The problem is that the Hong Kong Police Force has no rights to catch any illegal file sharing outside Hong Kong territory.

Moreover, Internet users who reveal their personal details via emails or social networking sites may also attract the attention of fraudsters. Money will be stolen if users provide credit card numbers or ID card numbers mistakenly to spam emails or fraudulent websites. It may cause a loss of property and the consequences can be even more devastating if the situation is complicated by gang influences. In addition, the leakage of personal information may cause a loss of privacy and some cyber-bullying. This may mean victims suffer humiliation, low self-esteem or even commit suicide.

There are a number of ways for different stakeholders to prevent Internet crimes.

For parents, they could closely monitor the Internet usage of their children. Parents can set up a firewall or filtering software to prevent their kids from accessing dangerous websites so as to prevent children from committing or being victims of Internet crimes. Besides, parents should communicate with their kids more often in order to get to know their daily lives and inner feelings.

For schools, they can educate students and tell them to protect their personal details. Teachers could invite police officers or social workers to hold workshops on the importance of protecting private details. They could also tell them the dangers of meeting strangers in online chat rooms. Teachers can also show newspaper articles about the harmful effects of online dating during class teacher period.

For ourselves, we should develop self-control and be aware of potential hazards of the Internet. For example, we should never expose any personal details in emails, discussion rooms or social networking websites. In addition, we should think twice before we write anything online because every word counts at the end of the day.

On balance, the harmful effects of Internet crimes are brought by abuse of freedom of speech, loose online regulations and casual disclosure of personal information. Fighting against the occurrence and spread of Internet crimes is not only the duty of schools and parents, but also our own responsibility.

The more people help fight against Internet crimes, the more secure the virtual world will be.



# A COMPLAINT LETTER TO THE POLICE

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Complaint about teenagers gathering in the park

I am writing to complain about the teenagers who have been gathering in the park next to my building. They drink and make a lot of noise at night, so my neighbours and I can not sleep well. I have called the police once already, but the problem still exists.

My neighbours and I used to live in a quiet, lovely and peaceful place. Since the teenagers have started gathering in the park every night, it has completely changed. I guess that they are going astray as they have quit school and are loitering in the park.

The facilities in the park have been destroyed by them, which means our children have nowhere to play. So now, we need to find someone to fix the broken facilities or our children will have to go far away to another park.

Moreover, they drink and smoke, so they are causing air pollution in the spot. In the past, there were no smokers and we enjoyed a healthy environment, but now we do not! Some people told me that they can not come home without a mask as the smoke is killing them.

Also, because of the noise they make, we can not sleep well. I bet you have no idea how noisy it is. Our baby wakes up at night due to the loud noise and so do the parents. We hear the noise clearly. How can we have a good sleep? Consequently, we feel sleepy at work. Even worse, one of my neighbours was fired due to the sleeping problem.

I can tell you that we clearly hear what language they are speaking. I remember they said some bad words like f....., sh..... and d..... Some kids are picking up their language. I have heard them using it among themselves. The gangsters even try to make friends with our kids. It is a very serious problem and they also sell some drugs to them.

I tried to ask one of them to go away, but he said he was 'Laughing Gor' and when I talked to him, he was laughing at me. I am wondering if one of them is the spy you sent there.

I demand you deploy some police officers there to protect us and arrest all the disturbing gangsters. I just want the problem to be solved as soon as possible. Otherwise, I shall report this to the mass media and allow the scene to be shown on TV. If this happens, all Hong Kong people will get to know how impotent the police are.

I look forward to receiving a reply confirming that the police are responsible for the protection of the public in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,

Micky Lee



## MY FATHER

I have been watching my father work in these past few days. My father has had his own shop selling vegetables for over thirty years. He always pretends that he is fine and not tired, and of course, we can't know everything that he has done in the past so I made the decision to see his routines.

I know my father needs to wake up at 3:00a.m. every day and he can just sleep for at most, five hours every day of the year. It is incredible! I still feel sleepy after I have slept for eight hours! In his shop, he needs to do many chores that are really exhausting for the average person. Nonetheless, he smiles all the time. Also, there are plenty of customers that have been my father's regular customers for a long time. My father likes to talk with them and they have become really good friends obviously.

Another important thing that I found in these few days is that my father sometimes can't even eat his lunch because of the hectic business. I feel heartbroken after I have found this truth. He always works so hard but he just can't take care of his health because he always cares for us.

After watching my father for these few days, I can really feel how he loves our family and I swear, I will try my best to help him and love him. I will set a target for myself to reach: that is studying hard to enter university. It is because I need to find a promising job and let my father and mother retire as soon as possible. I just want them to relax in their lives. I will care for my dad every day and I will try my best to be admitted into university. I think that is the best way to thank my father for loving my family.

The most important thing I realized is the love between my father and I. I finally and truly realize that he is the best father in the world ever and I am really glad and proud to have this great man as my dad.



2007-2008 劉曉嵐——CD封套設計



## WASTE CHARGING: A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

Picture this: There are tons of rubbish which were thrown on the footpath. No one dare to walk and no one cleans the mess up. Cockroaches and rats are everywhere. That's where you and your children are going to live. Does it sound horrible? Yes, this 'Dying City' is probably not too real, but it will definitely happen if we continue to throw so much litter every day.

To rectify this problem, the government is proposing a new policy of waste charging which requires every household to pay for what it throws. True, it is generally acknowledged that the amount of waste in Hong Kong is at an extremely high level, but we still have to reconsider the pros and cons of this charging. Let's begin with what the supporters say.

In the first place, they believe that waste charging can significantly reduce household rubbish. The principle is simple: polluter pays. The supporters add that this new policy just resembles the plastic bag charging implemented two years ago which was effective in reducing the use of plastic bags. Green groups expect that the same positive results can be seen with the introduction of waste charging—people will throw less if they are required to pay.

Apart from that, waste charging can lessen the burden on landfills. As we all know that the landfills in HK will be full in less than ten years, the government should think of some ways to encourage source separation of waste. Waste charging, in the view of the government, is the fastest and simplest method to encourage recycling and reduce waste for the betterment of a sustainable society.

It seems that rubbish charging is a good solution. However, every bean has its black and the new policy may not be as ideal as some people think.

First and foremost, the waste charging adversely affects grassroots people the most. Let's hear what a 42-year-old housewife says. 'The new charge sounds like a punishment to the poor. My husband has no job and I have little income, yet we have 4 mouths to feed. We barely have enough to afford our daily expenditure, but now the government is going to charge our last cent. Isn't it a daylight robbery?' Yes, she is right. In the global economic downturn, the poor can hardly make ends meet and the extra charging will push them into a dead end.

Moreover, waste charging deprives Hong Kong's citizens of their fundamental freedom. Can you think of a city or country which doesn't allow its people to throw rubbish or they will be 'fined'? It sounds somewhere like the North Korea but definitely not Hong Kong, as it has been ranked as the world's freest economy for some 20 years. How can the so-called 'freest economy' restrict citizens' rights to throw rubbish?

To sum up, waste charging can reduce rubbish and the loads of landfills. Yet, it puts huge pressure on grassroots and exploits basic human rights. The government should negotiate with people on this agenda and put forward a win-win situation for all parties. Otherwise, the argument will never come to an end.



# WORKPLACE COMMUNICATION: WORKING AT HOME?

'I just graduated from university last year and I wanted to have my own business. Since I didn't have much money, I set up a firm at home selling unique Japanese goods. Now I am a boss and my venture is going well. I'm glad that I made this perfect decision!' a 22-year-old young adult happily shared.

The quote may sound Greek to the ears of those over forty as the concept of 'home-office' was not developed before the invention of the Internet. But now it is a totally different story. With the help of technology, workers and bosses can work at home with computers. They can also send messages and documents to their business partners via the Internet and virtual conferences. It seems that more people in Hong Kong choose to work at home these days. So, what are the pros and cons of a home office?

Saving money, among other advantages, is perhaps the first reason that comes to people's minds when they think of a home office. It is universally acknowledged that the rent of Class A office buildings in Hong Kong is skyrocketing. So many small and medium-sized companies vanished in the past decade just because of the increase of rent. Just imagine, how can companies survive should they spend over half of their profits in rent along with monthly salaries, electricity bills and all kinds of taxes? No wonder some businessmen want to spare their money for the expansion of their trades.

What's more, working at home can save transportation time. As most offices in Hong Kong are located in the most crowded and busiest areas like Central or Tsim Sha Tsui, commuters, especially those from the New Territories, have to get up as early as five every morning or they have to queue for at least half an hour or are squeezed like sardines in the carriages of MTR trains. They will then become exhausted even before they step in their office. A home office, on the other hand, saves all these troubles, time and effort. So precious is time that we cannot afford to waste it, either for work or for relaxing. With a home office, people don't have to spend two hours a day going to and from their workplace any longer. Instead, they can sleep more or work longer according to their will. Isn't that great for most commuters?

Nevertheless, as every coin has two sides, a home office is not without its own drawbacks.

To begin with, employers are worried about the slowing down of their work progress for sure. If workers are allowed to work at home, their bosses can hardly monitor if they are really working or they are just surfing on Facebook, drinking a cup of coffee or even sleeping in their beds. Without a monitoring system, the efficiency of the companies will be in jeopardy.

Worse still, a home office does not favor face-to-face communication and team work. Most home offices are just a one-man business which has no division of labour or cooperation among colleagues. While in a traditional office colleagues can support, encourage and remind one another, a home-office focuses on individuality for one can finish all the tasks without the help of others. This working style may be possible for small businesses, but may not be feasible for enterprises which require effective communication, division of labour and sound management systems.



In summary, a home office can save rental costs and transportation time, yet it may slow down working efficiency and discourage interactions among colleagues. To me, working at home is, of course, much better than in a traditional office. However, I don't think many of us can forgo the conventional way of working.



2011-12 6A Kate, Wai Man Cheung

## BOOK REVIEW

Book Title : Pride and Prejudice

Author : Jane Austen

This is the first time I have read *Pride and Prejudice*, written by Jane Austen. I am not used to reading an English novel, except for the sake of dictation. Luckily, this book is so famous that there are TV versions and film versions as well. The visual alternatives were good enough for me to become interested in the novel. However, the TV version is a little bit long too.

I enjoyed the film and then I really wanted to read the book. When you read it, you will find the content is substantial. The description of the characters is impressive and the plot is touching. Jane Austen is good at writing and describing relationships and disturbances between gentlemen and ladies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are a great deal of comical scenes and irony about people's selfishness, influence and foolishness.

I like Eliza for her intelligence. There is a sharp contrast between Eliza and her sisters. Lydia is too naïve and she only enjoys the money and the way to be loved by someone. So she cannot get a man who really loves her. Actually, for Lizzy, she might not have a happy ending if she lived in our world. In the novel, the author gave her such a good ending, but most of the men nowadays don't like a woman that is too clever. But I enjoy the pride and the prejudice between Lizzy and Darcy. Their conflicts make the story so real. We know that love may happen at the right time with the right person and in the end, the right people get together.

The women in this book reveal various feminine roles. They may be anyone around you or maybe they are just you. We want love but sometimes we are afraid or sometimes take ourselves too seriously. These things make our way to love difficult but you'll finally find someone who loves you through the little ways you behave, the voice you project, the films you watch and of course, the books you read.



# SKYROCKETING PROPERTY PRICES SAP HONGKONGERS' LIVELIHOODS

According to recent research, Hong Kong's property prices and rents are seventy percent higher than five years ago due to excessive property speculation. They remain at such a high level which directly affects the livelihood of many Hong Kong residents.

Originally, estates or apartments were just places for people to live in and keep away from typhoons and storms. However, the trend of speculation has turned these peaceful shelters into battlefields for profiteering. Under the increase in property prices, the grass-roots or low income families, which consist of over seventy percent of the local population, are mostly affected. In this article, I will outline the adverse influence of high property prices and suggest some solutions to tackle the problem.

To commence with, inflation is the first impact brought by the soaring property rents. Someone may think that the rising property rents simply affect those who want to buy a flat. Sadly, it is merely a misconception. For example, many shops and restaurants are now charging more as a result of higher rents. We should bear in mind that shops are not charities and they will definitely shift their expenditure to customers in order to balance their budgets. Hence, the price of food, clothes and other commodities will increase at the same time. There is nothing more harmful than inflation.

Moreover, high property prices and rents lower people's living standards. For example, you might have bought a five hundred square foot apartment for 1.8 million dollars five years ago, but you now have to pay three million for the same apartment. In case you can just afford 1.8 million, what you can buy is just a flat of two hundred square feet. In other words, the living standard of people has been downgraded.

Furthermore, the ever-increasing property prices are associated with the problems of "sub-divided apartments", especially in poor districts. People with low incomes have no alternative but to live in sub-divided apartments or they have to sleep in the streets or under bridges. Worse still, these "sub-standard cages" are threatening the safety of the tenants. For example, most of us can still recall the fire accident in Fa Yuen Street and the collapse of an old building in Ma Tao Wai Road in which the sub-divided units wreaked havoc and claimed many lives.

At this critical moment, the government has a responsibility to remedy the problem of surging property prices and rents. There are both temporary and long-term solutions for this problem.

Taking immediate action against speculation is a temporary yet effective way to lower property prices. Laws should be amended so that owners are allowed to buy and sell their flats within nine months or a heavy tax will be imposed. Speculators will think before they make profits by reselling. Although this short-term action may interfere with the free-market principle, it can instantly cool down the fierce fire of property speculation nowadays.

The long-term solution is that the government should amend its public housing policies and increase the supply of public housing estates so that average people can buy or rent a flat.



As we know, there is a long list of poor people waiting for public housing. Most of the applicants are now living in pathetic conditions or dangerous sub-divided units. Still, they have to wait for three to five years before they are allocated a small flat. Hence, there is a need for the government to provide more public housing to its citizens in order to safeguard the livelihood of Hong Kong people.

In conclusion, high property prices and rents cause inflation, lower people's living standard and worsen the problem of sub-divided apartments. Two solutions to cool down the property market are to tighten the regulations concerning speculation and increase the supply of public housing. Though the crisis is difficult to solve, the government has a responsibility to get the job done for the benefit of every citizen.



2007-2008 劉天欣——不同的美

# PROBLEMS FACED IN HONG KONG

Problems are the obstacles to the development of a city. Yet, the government, charities and citizens should work hand in hand to help the weak overcome the hurdles, chase their dreams and reach the sky.

As Hong Kong is a knowledge-based capitalist society, social resources are allocated unevenly. This leads to the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, which has a negative impact on Hong Kong's social harmony and governance. In my opinion, it is by far the biggest challenge faced by Hong Kong.

Under the capitalist mechanism, the wealth of Hong Kong is inclined towards consortiums, property owners and international enterprises, i.e. in the hands of the highly-educated professionals. The demand of financial services is soaring. On the other hand, quite a number of underprivileged people such as the grassroots, low-skilled workers and children with social and economic needs scarcely have the opportunities, technology and education for upward mobilization. Worse still, this kind of poverty passes from one generation to the next.

Due to the lack of resources and uneven distribution of money, the basic needs of the lower class cannot be met, resulting in a hateful sentiment towards the better-off class in general. Social disharmony and instability prevail as a result of the wrath against the rich and cause impediments to the development of society.

The disparity between the well-off and the poor is closely related to the fact that Hong Kong was a labour-intensive economy in the 70s, but now it has changed to a knowledge-based economy. Those who cannot keep up with the current job requirements of the commercial world are either unemployed or underpaid. Even though we now have the legislation of a minimum wage, the monthly income of a cleaner can never be compared with that of a junior at an investment bank.

To remedy this situation, vocational retraining programmes should be extended for low-skilled and low-income people in order to help them obtain practical skills to re-enter the job market. In addition, the government can increase the number of infrastructure projects so as to create more job opportunities for the working class.

Apart from that, the government and social welfare organizations can cease the problem of inter-generational poverty by providing scholarships to outstanding students, giving them tutorial lessons for free, lending money to the needy with low interest rates and handing out extra-curricular coupons to new immigrants. All these measures can successfully help families with low income to get access to higher education, with which the younger generation can have a chance to upgrade themselves and be better prepared for the qualifications needed by the financial and business sectors.

Only with immediate action can the government narrow the wealth gap and make Hong Kong a better place to live in. Since actions speak louder than words, I would like to give a helping hand to the underprivileged by donating money, taking part in volunteering work and serving in community centres in order to lift them out of poverty.



# THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACED BY HONGKONGERS

2012 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HKSAR. It seems that there have been more crises than achievements throughout this one-and-a-half decades. In fact, the number of protesters who demonstrate on 1<sup>st</sup> July is ever increasing. Among all kinds of troubles, biased policy preference is, in my opinion, the biggest problem in Hong Kong.

First and foremost, an inclination towards the business sector in policy-making leads to social disparity. It also creates a wide wealth gap between the rich and the poor. The principle of "big market, small government" is strongly held by the government but it has inevitably let some big traders monopolize the market. For example, since the selling prices of the popular grocery store "759 House" are much lower than most supermarkets, suppliers have threatened to stop the product supplies if the chain does not raise its price at once. In this way, small and medium sized enterprises can never compete with large enterprises and the public can only patronize chain supermarkets with more expensive goods. This results in the broadening of the wealth gap.

The Cyberport Road Project is a good example of benefits transfer between the government and the business sector. To illustrate, though the government sells lands at low prices, the land agents build a lot of big houses. As the property prices continue to soar, the income of the middle class and property prices become more and more distant, which worsens the problem of rich-poor disparity.

Apart from that, the erroneous discrimination against the poor is doubtlessly shattering the core value of equality in Hong Kong and shaking the foundation of a harmonious society. Since the tax from land agents is the main source of governmental revenue, the government does not intervene in the real estate market. Hence, land agents can control property prices easily and profit by charging people more than the actual value of the apartments. As the general public is constantly being exploited, they are generally aggrieved and hateful towards the well-off, resulting in social disintegration.

For instance, many Hong Kong citizens protested against the "2011-2012 Budget" in March last year. A lot of people sat on main roads in Central, blocked the traffic and confronted the police so the situation became chaotic. We can see from this case that the unfairness of our society has led to social disparity, weakened the coagulation of the community and destroyed social harmony.

In order to solve the above problems, I have the following recommendations:

To begin with, I suggest the government adjusts the "positive non-intervention" policy and takes a more active role in regulating the price of commodities. The new mechanism should encourage market competition, regulate harmful speculation and ensure the affordability of common goods for average people. Whenever the "big market" is in imbalance, the "small government" should intervene in the market so as to protect the socially vulnerable groups and prevent them from being exploited by greedy companies.

In addition, the government can set a fair competition law in order to protect the



interests of small companies and consumers. Through the introduction of a fair competition law, the government can ensure there is fair trade in the market. This is an effective solution not only to promote free and fair competition in the market, but also to rectify the problem of the present market monopoly. For example, if more power companies are allowed to enter Hong Kong, the price of electricity will go down and their services will be enhanced.

Establishing a truly democratic universal suffrage of Legislative Council and Chief Executive is the ultimate way to tackle disparity. This protects the interests of the whole community rather than a few entrepreneurs. In fact, every permanent resident should have the right to vote in the aforementioned elections and this freedom should not be restricted to the fat cats and yuppies. A sound system of universal suffrage can prevent cliquish elections and uphold the welfare of each Hong Kong person.

All in all, the unequal policy preference is the root cause of deeply-seated problems such as the wealth gap and social instability in our society. The government should take immediate action by refining the existing law, setting up new regulations and realize the promise of universal suffrage. Only by these actions can the gap between the rich and the poor be narrowed and the sustainable development of Hong Kong ensured.

2011-12 6C Lau Ka Yau

## OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCE

In these six years, I have experienced many meaningful things and learnt how to get along with people, how to manage a team and inspire my group-mates. I am certain these experiences will help me throughout my life.

My sister was a university student who graduated from Tokyo University when I was still a kid. Inspired by her, I look forward to being a university student and making the most of it.

In Sun Fong Chung College, I joined many non-academic clubs such as the table tennis team and the Magic Club. I was the chairman of the table tennis team for three years. During that time, I tried hard to make everyone punctual, increase my team's morale and act as a role model to them. In addition, I experienced how sports can be incorporated into my life. For example, it can cultivate my communication and social skills, establish positive values and correct attitudes, identify individual differences and respect for others, as well as consolidating team spirit. Furthermore, we learn how to face failure or success in an event.

Coaching the female table tennis group as a captain was a heavy responsibility for me because I had never taught anyone to play table tennis before. In the first year, the B grade girls' team lost in the first round of the inter-school table tennis competition. We were not discouraged but we practiced harder and improved our skills. In the next year, the A grade girls' team rose to the top eight in the semi-final. Although they did not become champions, they enjoyed the competition, and felt proud and dignified. Showing improvements is more valuable than winning medals!

The past three years of coaching have enlightened me and given me visions of my future. I will apply the leadership, communication skills and positive outlook in my studies.



# WRITING A SPEECH ON THE STUDENT WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Good afternoon everyone. I am Chris Wong, a member of the school's Student Council. I shall be talking about the student work experience programme. I think the work experience programme should be kept because there are many benefits although some of you may think it is of no value to students.

Firstly, you will gain experience from the programme. It will certainly count when you complete your schooling. Whatever your work is, it is quite sure that you will be able to learn certain new things and ideas. More important is that someone's reference could be used to land a better job. This will really help you in getting through the screening process since employers will take a closer look at your resume. If you are hired as a full-time employee, you should work really hard and show that you can contribute more to the company. Anyway, the experience could make your future better, don't you think so?

Secondly, the work experience programme can help you have a deeper understanding of a profession. I have completed a week of work as a sales assistant. I had to handle returns and exchange of merchandise, wrap gifts, and keep my work areas neat. I needed to be aware of special sales, promotions and recognize security risks and thefts, as well as know how to handle or prevent such situations. This experience helped me understand the job nature, the challenges and difficulties in the industry.

Thirdly, job experience will enhance our personal growth. It also boosts our self-confidence. We can develop better communication skills and build up good habits like punctuality. More important to us is that it gives us training in leadership, sociality, creativity, cooperativeness and responsibility. Work experience could help you to have better self-understanding on what career to work in. It can also help you to decide what subject to further study and what is the most suitable work for you.

People may think that the programme wastes students' time as it would take up the time for studying or joining some extra-curricular activities. Nonetheless, I think the work experience programme should be kept because it is a chance for students to learn more skills and have more exposure to work related skills. Surely you would become more mature after taking part in the work experience programme.

